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MORBIDITY AND MORTALITY WEEKLY REPORT

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Health Objectives for the Nation

Deaths Resulting from Residential Fires — United States, 1991

Most residential fires occur during December through March—a period of colder weather and longer darkness. During 1991, residential fires were the second leading cause of injury deaths (after motor-vehicle-related injuries) among children aged 1–9 years (1) and the sixth leading cause of such deaths among persons aged ≥65 years. Because of seasonal variations in the occurrence of residential fires, CDC analyzed death certificate data from U.S. vital statistics mortality tapes maintained by CDC's National Center for Health Statistics and data from the National Fire Incidence Reporting System (NFIRS) to improve characterization of selected residential fires. This report summarizes the analysis of death certificate data for 1991 and data from NFIRS for 1990.

Deaths from residential fires were identified using *International Classification of Diseases*, *Ninth Revision*, external cause of injury codes E890–E899 and place of occurrence noted as residence on the death certificate. Information about the causes of fire-associated deaths was obtained from NFIRS, maintained by the U.S. Fire Administration, which gathers detailed reports of a sample of fire-associated deaths collected from approximately 13,500 fire departments in 41 states (2). NFIRS estimates of deaths associated with residential fires for children aged <5 years were based on 279 deaths, and for adults aged >70 years, 368 deaths.

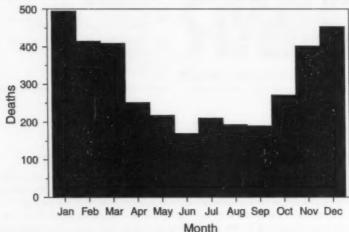
In 1991, residential fires accounted for 3683 deaths; of these, 1773 (48%) occurred during January (495), February (415), March (409), and December (454) (Figure 1). These deaths included 711 (19%) among children aged <5 years and 898 (24%) among persons aged ≥70 years. In comparison with the total population, the rate for fire-related death was highest for the young and the elderly (Figure 2).

Based on NFIRS data for January-December 1990, the causes of the fires were known for 522 (72%) deaths of children aged <5 years; the three leading causes were 1) children playing with fire-ignition sources (e.g., matches) (37%), 2) faulty or misused heating devices (19%), and 3) faulty or misused electrical distribution sources* (11%). For persons aged >70 years, the causes of fires were known for 247 (67%)

^{*}Includes wiring, transformers, meter boxes, power switching gear, outlets, cords, plugs, and lighting fixtures as sources of heat.

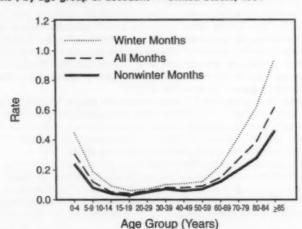
Residential Fires — Continued

FIGURE 1. Number of deaths from residential fires,* by month — United States, 1991



* International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision, codes E890–E899. Source: National Center for Health Statistics, CDC.

FIGURE 2. Rate* of deaths from residential fires† during winter months⁵ and nonwinter months¶, by age group of decedent — United States, 1991



*Per 100,000 population.

¹ International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision, codes E890-E899.

[§] January, February, March, and December.

1April through November.

Source: National Center for Health Statistics, CDC.

Residential Fires — Continued

deaths; the three leading causes were 1) careless smoking (33%), 2) faulty or misused heating devices (19%), and 3) faulty or misused electrical distribution sources (12%) (2).

Data from the 1990 NFIRS were used to estimate the numbers of fires and deaths associated with selected causes of residential fires during January, February, March, and December (2). During these months in 1990, residential electrical-distribution fires were associated with an estimated 40,000 fires and 266 deaths (Table 1). Residential fires involving fireplaces and chimneys resulted in an estimated 26,200 fires, and portable kerosene and electrical heaters were involved in an estimated 1500 fires. Christmas tree fires caused approximately 600 residential fires and 29 deaths; the ratio of deaths to fires was 1:21.

Reported by: Div of Unintentional Injury Prevention, National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, CDC.

Editorial Note: Despite the 37% decline in rates of residential-fire deaths from 1970 through 1991 (1), the overall rate in 1991 (1.5 per 100,000) exceeded the rate targeted by a national health objective for the year 2000 (reducing the rate of residential fire-related deaths to no more than 1.2 deaths per 100,000 persons [objective 9.6]). In particular, the rates for children aged <5 years (3.7 per 100,000 children) and for persons aged ≥65 years (3.5 per 100,000)—the highest-risk groups—exceeded the age-group-specific target goal of 3.3 per 100,000 for each group (1,3).

The increased occurrence of fire-related deaths during winter months reflects the seasonal use of portable heaters, fireplaces and chimneys, and Christmas trees (2). Fires associated with electric portable heaters usually result from electrical shortages or device failure, rather than from ignition of nearby materials such as draperies. Electric cords for portable electric space heaters should be plugged directly into the wall and not linked through an extension cord, kept at least 3 feet from any combustible object, and unplugged when not in use. Fires attributed to the use of kerosene portable heaters usually result from using the wrong fuel, faulty switches and valves, and fuel leaks and spills that subsequently ignite. Kerosene heaters should be used only with K-1 kerosene, rather than gasoline or camp-stove fuel, and should be refueled outdoors after the heater has cooled. Chimney fires usually result from a build-up of creosote, a highly flammable by-product of wood fires. Chimneys should be cleaned or inspected annually to detect and prevent creosote build-up. A fire screen should be used in front of the fireplace; wood stoves and fireplaces should burn only seasoned wood—not green wood, trash, or wrapping paper.

TABLE 1. Estimated number of residential fires, number of deaths, and ratio of deaths to fires, by selected causes — United States, 1990

Cause	No. deaths	Estimated no. fires	Ratio (deaths:fires)
Christmas trees	29	600	1:21
Portable heaters	56	1,500	1:27
Electrical distribution*	266	40,000	1:150
Fireplaces and chimneys	58	26,200	1:452

^{*}Includes wiring, transformers, meter boxes, power switching gear, outlets, cords, plugs, and lighting fixtures as sources of heat.

Source: National Fire Incidence Reporting System, U.S. Fire Administration.

Residential Fires — Continued

Fires related to Christmas trees usually result from electrical problems (e.g., overloaded electrical circuits caused by using several extension cords in one outlet, or frayed wire and cords). In 1991, Christmas trees accounted for the lowest number of fires, but a substantially higher proportion of deaths than other types of residential fires described in this report (Table 1). Persons in households with these holiday decorations should periodically examine the electric lights used and should not place trees near heating sources or fireplaces. In addition, live-cut trees should be sufficiently watered to reduce drying; dry trees ignite easily and burn rapidly.

To reduce the risk for death or injury resulting from fires, a smoke detector should be installed outside each sleeping area on every habitable level of a home and the battery changed at least annually. Occupants should develop escape plans that include the identification of two exits from every living area and should practice exit drills and meeting at a designated place at a safe location sufficiently distant from the home. In addition, every home should have a multipurpose fire extinguisher ready for use in extinguishing small fires. Residences should be evacuated for any fire that cannot be extinguished within 1 minute because of the rapid rate of accumulation of heat and smoke; once evacuated, residences should not be reentered. Persons who become trapped in a residence should crawl on the floor toward an exit to avoid inhalation of smoke that has risen.

Because children playing with fire-ignition sources were the leading cause of fires that resulted in the deaths of children aged <5 years, children should be taught not to play with matches or lighters. In addition, young children should be told to inform an adult immediately if they see a fire starting. Other precautions should include storing matches and lighters out of the reach of young children; wooden "strike anywhere" kitchen matches should not be used or kept in homes with young children.

Programs directed at modifying the environment and behaviors may assist in reducing the number of deaths from residential fires. For example, CDC is working with the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Division of Injury and Disability Prevention and Rehabilitation, to install smoke detectors in homes, implement a public health education campaign about smoke detector use and maintenance, and pass and enforce local smoke detector ordinances.

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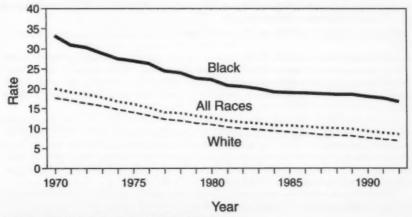
Current Trends

Infant Mortality — United States, 1992

The final infant mortality (death before age 1 year) rate for the United States for 1992—8.5 infant deaths per 1000 live-born infants—was the lowest rate ever recorded and represented a decrease of 4.5% from the rate of 8.9 for 1991 (Figure 1). Based on provisional data, the trend in declining infant mortality continued through 1993 (rate: 8.3) (1). This report characterizes infant mortality in 1992 using information from birth and death certificates compiled by CDC's National Center for Health Statistics (2) and compares findings with those for 1991.

In this report, cause-of-death statistics are based on the underlying cause of death* reported on the death certificate by the attending physician, medical examiner, or coroner in a manner specified by the World Health Organization. Because race reflects differing distributions of several risk factors for infant death (e.g., low birthweight [LBW] [<2500 g (5 lbs 9 oz) at birth]) and is useful for identifying groups at greatest risk for infant death, this analysis examines race-specific mortality rates. Race for infant deaths was tabulated by race of decedent; race for live-born infants (who comprise the denominators of infant mortality rates) was tabulated by race of mother. Rates are presented only for black and white infants because the Linked Birth/Infant Death Data Set (used to more accurately estimate infant mortality rates for other racial groups) was not available for 1991 and 1992.

FIGURE 1. Infant mortality rate,* by race† of mother — United States, 1970-1992



^{*}Death before age 1 year, per 1000 live-born infants.

^{*}Defined by the International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision, as "(a) the disease or injury which initiated the train of morbid events leading directly to death, or (b) the circumstances of the accident or violence which produced the fatal injury."

[†]Hispanics and non-Hispanics are included in both racial groups. Data are presented only for black and white infants because the Linked Birth/Infant Death Data Set (used to more accurately estimate infant mortality rates for other racial groups) was not available for 1991 and 1992.

Infant Mortality - Continued

In 1992, a total of 34,628 infants died, compared with 36,766 in 1991. The mortality rate for white[†] infants in 1992 (6.9 per 1000) decreased 5.5% from the rate in 1991 (7.3), while the rate for black[†] infants in 1992 (16.8) decreased 4.5% from 1991 (17.6). From 1991 through 1992, the overall neonatal mortality (death before age 28 days) rate decreased 3.6% (5.6 to 5.4 per 1000); for white infants, the rate decreased from 4.5 to 4.3 and for black infants, from 11.2 to 10.8. The overall postneonatal mortality (death at age 28 days–11 months) rate decreased 8.8% (3.4 to 3.1 per 1000); for white infants, the rate decreased from 2.8 to 2.6, and for black infants, from 6.3 to 6.0.

From 1991 to 1992, the infant mortality rate decreased for six of the 10 leading causes of infant death and increased for three causes (Table 1). The largest decreases were for respiratory distress syndrome (RDS) (18.7%), accidents and adverse effects (14.1%), and sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS) (7.5%). Increases occurred for the categories of newborn affected by complications of placenta, cord, and membranes (4.3%); infections specific to the perinatal period (3.7%); and intrauterine hypoxia and birth asphyxia (3.4%).

The rank order of the 10 leading causes of infant death differed by race (Table 1). Although the first four leading causes of death were the same for white and black infants, their rank ordering differed; these same four causes accounted for 54.8% and 50.0% of all deaths among white and black infants, respectively. For white infants, the leading cause of death was congenital anomalies (25.6%); for black infants, the leading cause of death was disorders relating to short gestation and unspecified LBW (17.8%).

In 1992, the risk for death during the first year of life was 2.4 times greater for black than for white infants. For each of the leading causes of death, the risk for death was higher for black than for white infants, although there were large variations in the magnitude of the excess by cause. The cause-specific ratios were highest for disorders relating to short gestation and unspecified LBW (5.0:1), pneumonia and influenza (2.9:1), and RDS and infections specific to the perinatal period (2.5:1). The ratios were lowest for newborn affected by complications of placenta, cord, and membranes (2.1:1) and congenital anomalies (1.2:1).

Reported by: Mortality Statistics Br, Div of Vital Statistics, National Center for Health Statistics, CDC.

Editorial Note: The infant mortality rate—a standard index of health—is higher in the United States than in many other developed countries. In 1990 (the most recent year for which comparative data are available), the U.S. infant mortality rate ranked 24th among countries or geographic areas with a population of at least 1 million (3), a decline in rank from 1980 (20th) (4).

During the 1970s, the U.S. infant mortality rate declined 4.6% per year but slowed to an annual average decrease of 2.8% during the 1980s. From 1990 to 1991, the infant mortality rate declined 3.3%; approximately half of this decrease represented declines in mortality from congenital anomalies (34.6%) and RDS (18.5%). From 1991 to 1992, the infant mortality rate declined 4.5%; nearly half of this decrease represented declines in mortality from RDS (26.2%) and SIDS (21.9%).

Differences in infant mortality rates by race may reflect differences in factors such as socioeconomic status, access to medical care, and the prevalence of specific risks.

[†]Includes both Hispanic and non-Hispanic infants.

⁵When a death occurs under "accidental" circumstances, the preferred term within the public health community is "unintentional injury."

Infant Mortality - Continued

TABLE 1. Number of infant deaths, mortality rate, and percentage of deaths attributed to the 10 leading causes of death, by race for mother and cause — United States, 1992

Race/ Rank order [§]	Cause of death (ICD-91 code)	No.	Rate	% Distribution
	Cause of death (ICD-5 Code)	IVO.	nate	Distribution
BLACK				
1	Disorders relating to short gestation			
	and unspecified low birthweight (765)	2,025	300.6	17.8
2	Congenital anomalies (740–759)	1,477	219.3	13.0
3	Sudden infant death syndrome (798.0)	1,471	218.4	13.0
4	Respiratory distress syndrome (769)	705	104.7	6.2
5	Newborn affected by maternal complications			
	of pregnancy (761)	466	69.2	4.1
6	Infections specific to the perinatal period (771)	306	45.4	2.7
7	Newborn affected by complications			
	of placenta, cord, and membranes (762)	298	44.2	2.6
8	Accidents** and adverse effects (E800-E949)	251	37.3	2.2
9	Pneumonia and influenza (480-487)	216	32.1	1.9
10	Intrauterine hypoxia and birth asphyxia (768)	185	27.5	1.6
	All other causes (residual)	3.948	586.1	34.8
All causes	Thi other dadded (redicadi)	11,348	1,684.6	100.0
All Gauses		11,340	1,004.0	100.0
WHITE	-			
1	Congenital anomalies (740–759)	5,666	177.0	25.6
2	Sudden infant death syndrome (798.0)	3,239	101.2	14.6
3	Disorders relating to short gestation			
	and unspecified low birthweight (765)	1,926	60.2	8.7
4	Respiratory distress syndrome (769)	1,321	41.3	6.0
5	Newborn affected by maternal complications	.,		
	of pregnancy (761)	963	30.1	4.3
6	Newborn affected by complications			
	of placenta, cord, and membranes (762)	659	20.6	3.0
7	Infections specific to the perinatal period (771)	573	17.9	2.6
8	Accidents** and adverse effects (E800-E949)	533	16.6	2.4
9	Intrauterine hypoxia and birth asphyxia (768)	404	12.6	1.8
10	Pneumonia and influenza (480-487)	357	11.2	1.6
10	All other causes (residual)	6.523	203.7	29.4
All causes	All Other causes (residual)		692.3	100.0
		22,164	692.3	100.0
TOTAL**				
1	Congenital anomalies (740-759)	7,449	183.2	21.5
2	Sudden infant death syndrome (798.0)	4.891	120.3	14.1
3	Disorders relating to short gestation	.,,		
-	and unspecified low birthweight (765)	4.035	99.3	11.7
4	Respiratory distress syndrome (769)	2,063	50.8	6.0
5	Newborn affected by maternal complications	2,000	00.0	0.0
	of pregnancy (761)	1,461	35.9	4.2
6	Newborn affected by complications	1,401	33.3	4.4
	of placenta, cord, and membranes (762)	993	24.4	
7	Infections specific to the perinatal period (771)	901	22.2	2.6
	Accidents** and adverse effects (E800–E949)	819	20.1	2.4
8	Intrauterine hypoxia and birth asphyxia (768)	613	15.1	1.8
	Pneumonia and influenza (480–487)	600	14.8	1.7
10				
	All other causes (residual)	10,803	265.8	31.2
All causes	t'	34,628	851.9	100.0

*Death before age 1 year, per 100,000 live-born infants in specified group.

Based on number of deaths.

International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision.

^{††}Includes races other than black and white.

[†]Hispanics and non-Hispanics are included in both racial groups. Race differences are given only for black and white infants because the Linked Birth/Infant Death Data Set (used to more accurately estimate infant mortality rates for other racial groups) was not available for 1992.

^{**}When a death occurs under "accidental" circumstances, the preferred term within the public health community is "unintentional injury."

Infant Mortality - Continued

For example, the mortality rate is substantially higher for infants born to mothers of low socioeconomic status (5). In 1990, nearly three times as many black as white infants (56% versus 20%) were members of families with incomes below the poverty level (Bureau of the Census, unpublished data, 1992). In addition, because of income differentials, a lower proportion of black women have health insurance that covers the costs of adequate care for pregnancy and childbirth (6).

LBW is an important intermediate variable between some risk factors and infant mortality. In 1988 (the most recent year for which such data were available), 6.9% of infants had LBW; however, 59.2% of all infant deaths occurred among these infants. In 1992, a total of 13.3% of black infants had LBW, compared with 5.8% of white infants (7). Most of the causes of death for which black infants are at substantially elevated risk are closely associated with LBW. For three of the four causes of infant death characterized by the highest ratios of black-to-white mortality rates (i.e., disorders relating to short gestation and unspecified LBW, RDS, and newborn affected by maternal complications of pregnancy), 91.4% of the deaths in 1988 occurred among LBW infants (CDC, unpublished data, 1994).

The 1990 national health objective to reduce the overall infant mortality rate to nine deaths per 1000 live-born infants (8) was achieved in 1991 (rate: 8.9). A year 2000 national health objective is to reduce the overall infant mortality rate to no more than seven per 1000 live-born infants (objective 14.1) (9). This objective can be achieved by sustaining an average annual decrease of at least 2.4% for the total population.

Strategies to achieve the national health objective for reducing infant mortality should consider the heterogeneity of factors accounting for infant mortality in the United States. For example, reducing mortality from disorders related to short gestation and unspecified LBW will require improved access to adequate prenatal care and understanding of etiologic risk factors for preterm delivery; reduction of deaths related to maternal complications of pregnancy will require both expansion of access to prenatal care and assessment of the adequacy of the content of care (10). Efforts to address these and other risk factors may increase the likelihood of achieving the year 2000 national health objective for infant mortality.

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Infant Mortality — Continued

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Epidemiologic Notes and Reports

Encephalitis Associated with Cat Scratch Disease — Broward and Palm Beach Counties, Florida, 1994

On August 14, 1994, the Broward County Public Health Unit of the Florida Department of Health and Rehabilitative Services was notified of three children from Pompano Beach who were hospitalized with encephalitis attributed to cat scratch disease (CSD). All three children (aged 5, 6, and 11 years) were previously healthy and had no histories of seizure disorders or diagnoses of CSD. This report summarizes the investigation of these cases.

On August 12 and 13, during a 26-hour period, each child entered the emergency department of the same hospital with sudden onset of generalized seizures, coma, and respiratory depression requiring intubation and assisted ventilation. Two of the children had focal lymphadenopathy (axillary and epitrochlear) on admission; cervical lymphadenopathy developed in the third child during hospitalization. Clinical examinations and laboratory tests ruled out some causes of encephalopathy, including viral infections (e.g., herpes simplex and arboviruses), metabolic disorders, and toxic ingestions.

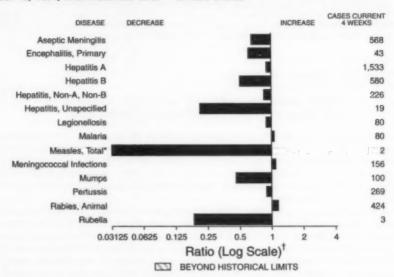
On September 5 and 27, additional cases of CSD encephalitis were confirmed in a 9-year-old boy and a 3-year-old girl from the same area (Fort Lauderdale and Boynton Beach). CSD lymphadenopathy had been diagnosed in both children approximately 3 weeks before the onsets of seizure and coma. Although the girl had been treated with successive courses of amoxicillin/clavulanate potassium and trimethoprim-sulfamethoxazole before the onset of CSD encephalitis, both of these cases were clinically similar to the first three cases.

Case and contact investigations identified exposure (e.g., handling and petting) to stray kittens as the only common link among the affected children; histories of overt scratches or bites were not elicited. Indirect fluorescent-antibody testing at CDC detected elevated antibody titers to *Bartonella henselae*, the etiologic agent for CSD, in all five patients (Table 1, page 915). Microscopic examination of lymph node biopsies was consistent with CSD for the two children with lymphadenopathy on presentation.

During hospitalization (range: 11–17 days), all children received supportive care and antibiotic and anticonvulsant therapy. All five children recovered without apparent sequelae.

Reported by: JE Stone, MJ Gorensek, MD, J Del Toro, MD, J Wong, MD, CA Gadia, MD, Broward General Medical Center, JL Cresanta, MD, JP Griffiths, RG Self, MD, Broward County Public Health Unit, Fort Lauderdale; WG Hlady, MD, RS Hopkins, MD, State Epidemiologist, Florida Dept of Health and Rehabilitative Svcs. Viral and Rickettsial Zoonoses Br, Div of Viral and Rickettsial Diseases, National Center for Infectious Diseases, CDC.

FIGURE I. Notifiable disease reports, comparison of 4-week totals ending December 10, 1994, with historical data - United States



*The large apparent decrease in the number of reported cases of measles (total) reflect dramatic fluctuations in the historical baseline. (Ratios (log scale) for week 49 measles (total) is 0.03125). Ratio of current 4-week total to mean of 15 4-week totals (from previous, comparable, and subsequent 4-week periods for the past 5 years). The point where the hatched area begins is

based on the mean and two standard deviations of these 4-week totals.

TABLE I. Summary — cases of specified notifiable diseases, United States, cumulative, week ending December 10, 1994 (49th Week)

	Cum. 1994		Cum. 1994
AIDS*	72,866	Measles: imported	183
Anthrax		indigenous	690
Botulism: Foodborns	58	Plaque	14
Infant	74	Poliomyelitis, Paralytic [§]	1
Other	58 74 7	Psictacosis	39
Brucellosis	82 31	Rabies, human	2
Cholera	31	Syphilis, primary & secondary	19,148
Congenital rubella syndrome	0	Syphilis, congenital, age < 1 year	1,123
Diphtheria	1	Tetamus	35
Encephalitis, post-infectious	102	Toxic shock syndrome	175
Gonorrhea	370,863	Trichinosis	33
Heemophilus Influenzae (invasive disease)†	1,064	Tuberculosis	20,976
Hansen Disease	110	Tularemia	83
Leptospirosis	110 34	Typhoid fever	391
Lyme Disease	10,784	Typhus fever, tickborne (RMSF)	426

*Updated monthly to the Division of HIV/AIDS, National Center for Infectious Diseases; last update November 29, 1994.

*Of 1010 cases of known age, 289 (29%) were reported among children less than 5 years of age.

This case was vaccine-associated. The remaining 6 suspected cases with onset in 1994 have not yet been confirmed.

Total reported to the Division of Sexually Transmitted Diseases and HIV Prevention, National Center for Prevention Services, through second quarter 1994.

TABLE II. Cases of selected notifiable diseases, United States, weeks ending December 10, 1994, and December 11, 1993 (49th Week)

		Aseptic					He	outitis (\	firal), by t	уре	Lanland	Lyme
Reporting Area	AIDS*	Menin- gitis	Primary	Post-in- fectious	Gono	rrhea	A	В	NA,NB	Unspeci- fied	Legionel- losis	Lyme Disease
	Cum. 1994	Cum. 1994	Cum. 1994	Cum. 1994	Cum. 1994	Cum. 1993	Cum. 1994	Cum. 1994	Cum. 1994	Cum. 1994	Cum. 1994	Cum. 1994
UNITED STATES	72,888	7,661	624	102	379,883	378,143	21,719	10,705	4,035	393	1,475	10,784
NEW ENGLAND	2,589	299	19	5	7,721	7,394	276	304	121	15	76	2,528
Maine	79	31	5	*	85	77	24	11		*	5	27
N.H.	60	32	3	2	105	69	15	21	8	*		30
Vt. Mass.	1,309	36 84	9	1	3,084	2,999	103	175	93	13	59	13 242
R.I.	241	116	2	2	450	402	26	8	20	2	12	471
Conn.	886	*	*	*	3,963	3,824	96	89		*	*	1,745
MID. ATLANTIC	21,304	884	59	19	40,647	44,561	1,550	1,364	420	8	239	6,749
Upstate N.Y.	2,006	433	34	3	9,782	9,796	511	366	212	4	58	4,195
N.Y. City N.J.	12,177	137	7	5	14,236 4,530	11,868 5,558	624 248	351 324	170	*	10 38	1,245
Pa.	2,466	314	18	11	12,099	17,339	167	323	34	4	133	1,245
E.N. CENTRAL	5.883	1,467	154	22	72,020	80,376	2,326	1,064	297	12	435	131
Ohio	1,095	377	55	4	20,674	21,360	1,061	157	23	12	191	75
Ind.	589	197	12	1	8,766	8,158	359	175	10		105	14
101.	2,896	375	50	5	18,507	27,759	428	216	63	5	30	11
Mich. Wis.	960 343	511	33	12	17,339 6,734	16,864 6,235	316 162	392 124	198	7	79 30	31
										40		004
W.N. CENTRAL Minn.	1,502 375	415 25	33	8	21,110	20,528	1,071	604	103	12	92	284 185
lowa	96	117	1	1	1,557	1,508	61	26	13	11	33	16
Mo.	671	151	8	4	11,339	12,416	526	455	40		36	87
N. Dak.	22	12	4		18	52	5	-	*	*	4	*
S. Dak. Nebr.	15 84	37	5	3	1,060	243 484	37 118	29	14	*	10	2
Kans.	239	71	7	-	3,538	3,508	99	29	15	-	6	14
S. ATLANTIC	17,469	1,490	142	29	104,146	94,548	1,376	2,156	603	53	332	821
Del.	247	37	1	-	1,892	1,470	17	5	1		26	78
Md.	2,526	238	21	4	16,956	15,649	200	389	32	16	86	362
D.C. Va.	1,325	53 309	31	6	6,572 12,770	5,205 11,604	26 177	54 128	25	10	10 12	9 128
W. Va.	76	309	48	0	785	639	21	45	43	10	4	27
N.C.	1,152	217	40	1	26,717	23,535	139	264			27	77
S.C.	1,088	30		*	12,296	9,800	39	32	10		16	7
Ga. Fla.	2,071 7,895	50 519	1	17	3,595 22,563	4,660 21,986	33 724	532 707	185 253	27	99 52	106 27
			-								71	42
E.S. CENTRAL	1,942	510 174	39 16	3	43,763	43,488	624 152	1,107		2	9	23
Ky. Tenn.	693	124	12		14,346	13,476	279	953		1	44	13
Ala.	554	163	8	1	13,868	15,550	122			1	13	6
Miss.	399	49	3	1	10,652	9,746	71			*	5	-
W.S. CENTRAL	6,982	841	48	2	45,268	42,780	3,109	1,453	584	71	43	127
Ark.	255	48	:		6,212	7,230	188	32		2	9	8
La. Okla.	1,146	32	7	*	11,367 3,259	11,367 4,396	147 380	161		3	13 11	73
Tex.	5,337	761	41	2	24,430	19,787	2,414			65	10	44
MOUNTAIN	2,107	334	12	5	9,276	10,700	4,222	608	417	61	102	20
Mont.	26	8			84	84	24		14	-	16	-
Idaho	56	6	*	-	85	166	355	72	67	1	2	3
Wyo.	18 763	132	2	2	83 3,169	75 3,600	29 570			17	8 21	5
Colo. N. Mex.	198	132	3		1,025	915	1,080			11	4	8
Ariz.	559	70	1	2	3,010	3,671	1,340	56	16	15	22	-
Utah	131	53	2	1	231	404	593			4	7	3
Nev.	356	43	4	*	1,589	1,785	231			13	24	1
PACIFIC	13,110	1,421	118	9	26,932		7,165			159	85	82
Wash. Oreg.	856 550				2,717 571	3,463 1,105	334 765			2	8	*
Calif.	11,481	1,274	115	8	22,215		5,806			153	73	82
Alaska	40	18	3	-	836	604	201	11		-	*	-
Hawaii	183	129		1	593		57	-		3	4	
Guam	1	22			197	96				12	3	
P.R.	2,159	39	1	3	425					11		
V.I. Amer. Samoa	49		-	-	31	41						
C.N.M.I.					45							

N: Not notifiable

N: Not notifiable U: Unavailable C.N.M.I.: Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands
*Updated monthly to the Division of HIV/AIDS, National Center for Infectious Diseases; last update November 29, 1994.

TABLE II. (Cont'd.) Cases of selected notifiable diseases, United States, weeks ending December 10, 1994, and December 11, 1993 (49th Week)

			Measles	(Rube	ola)		Menin-									
Reporting Area	Malaria	Indige	enous	Impo	orted*	Total	gococcal Infections	Mur	mps	- 1	Pertussis			Rubella		
	Cum. 1994	1994	Cum. 1994	1994	Cum. 1994	Cum. 1993	Cum. 1994	1994	Cum. 1994	1994	Cum. 1994	Cum. 1993	1994	Cum. 1994	Cum. 1993	
UNITED STATES	1,004		690		183	302	2,476	25	1,337	101	3,352	6,014		217	177	
NEW ENGLAND	76		14		14	63	132		25	11	423	738		131	2	
Maine	6	*	1		4	1	22		3		18	18	0		1	
N.H. Vt.	3		1 2	-	1	31	7 4	-	4	4	80 42	155 91				
Mass.	33	*	2		6	18	57		3	6	237	377	-	125	1	
R.I.	9		4		3	2	-		3	1	7	14	-	3	-	
Conn.	22		4		-	9	42	*	12	-	39	83		3	-	
MID. ATLANTIC	209	*	172	*	33	36	248	1	107	4	589	905		11	59	
Upstate N.Y. N.Y. City	54 79		12		14	18	90 11	-	32	3	227 157	326 85	:	8	17	
N.Y. City	46	Ü	144	Ú	12	10	53	Ü	6	Ú	11	84	Ü	2	15	
Pa.	30		5		4	-	92	1	56		194	410		-	5	
E.N. CENTRAL	98		58		44	31	391	4	243	8	407	1,492		11	8	
Ohio	15		15		2	9	108	2	71	4	150	434	*	*	1	
Ind.	14		-	*	1	1	76	*	7	4	65	158		-	3	
III. Mich.	39 28	*	17 23		39	9	115 57	2	104 47	-	94 48	423 115		3	1 2	
Wis.	28		3		-	6	35		14		50	362			1	
W.N. CENTRAL	45		126		44	3	174		65		204	543		2	1	
Minn.	14	-					18		5		87	319		-		
lowe	5		6		1	-	20	~	16		21	37		-	-	
Mo.	13	*	118		42	1	87	*	38		44	139		2	1	
N. Dak. S. Dak.	1					-	9		5	2	24	8	-	-		
Nebr.	5		1		1		13		1		11	14		-		
Kans.	7	*	1	*	-	2	26		-	*	13	21		*		
S. ATLANTIC	223		59		8	29	424	4	198	63	357	638		11	7	
Del.	3					~	5	-			3	10		*		
Md. D.C.	101	*	2		2	4	43	2	67	2	76 10	129		-	3	
Va.	37	-	1		2	4			42		36	63				
W. Va.			36			-	14		3		5	8				
N.C.	11	*	2		1	1			36		140	195				
S.C. Ga.	5 26		3		*		31		8	-	14	70 53		2	-	
Ge. Fla.	26		15		3	20		2	33		46	96		9	4	
E.S. CENTRAL	32		28		-	1		-	27		122				1	
Ky.	12	-	-				37	2			59	38	-		i	
Tenn.	10	*	28			-	35		8		22	169	-			
Ale.	9	*			*	1	74		12		34	10		~		
Miss.	1	*					*		7					-		
W.S. CENTRAL	62	*	11	*	8	10	320	10	257		187 27	186		13	18	
Ark. La.	3				1	1		1	32		12				1	
Okla.	7						. 33		23	3 -	27	78	-	4	1	
Tex.	43		11	-	6	9		9	197		121			9	16	
MOUNTAIN	35		150		17	7		5	152		412			5	11	
Mont.		*			-		6		10	7	10 87			*		
Idaho Wyo.	2		1		-	:	. 17		10		87	95	-		2	
Colo.	16	-	16	1 -	3	3			3	3 -	124		1 -		2	
N. Mex.	3	-					- 15	N	N		33	39			,	
Ariz.	7		121		1	3		4	95		131			:	2	
Utah Nev.	4 2		131		11	1	19	1	25 15		24			4	4	
			-	,				1	263		651			33	70	
PACIFIC Wests.	224 12		72		15	122	- 32	1	263		32				1	
Oreg.	13				2		98	N	N	V -	41	103	3 .	3		
Calif.	163		56		9	96	341	1	233		556			25	4	
Alaska	2		16	8 -	4	20		:	15		21	1 11		1 4	26	
Hawaii	14				4				18						20	
Guam	4					355		U		6 U	2		. U	1		
P.R. V.I.	3		13	3 :		361	5 15	-		1 -	4	. 11				
Amer. Samoa		U		. U				U	1	1 U	2		2 U			
C.N.M.I.	1	Ü	26	6 U		46	3 -	U	2	2 U			1 U			

^{*}For messles only, imported cases include both out-of-state and international importations.

N: Not notifiable

U: Unavailable

† International

* Out-of-state

TABLE II. (Cont'd.) Cases of selected notifiable diseases, United States, weeks ending December 10, 1994, and December 11, 1993 (49th Week)

Reporting Area	Syj (Primary &	philis Secondary)	Taxic- Shock Syndrome	Tuber	culosis	Tula- remia	Typhoid Fever	Typhus Fever (Tick-borne) (RMSF)	Rabies
	Cum. 1994	Cum. 1993	Cum. 1994	Cum. 1994	Cum. 1993	Cum. 1994	Cum. 1994	Cum. 1994	Cum. 1994
UNITED STATES	19,148	24,956	175	20,976	21,459	83	391	426	7,002
NEW ENGLAND	208	344	4	492	497	1	21	15	1,788
Maine N.H.	4	8	1	27	25		-	10	1,786
Vt.		25	1	15	17	-	-		195
Mass.	88	122	2	261	5 273	1	17	7	140
R.I. Conn.	15	15		44	56		3		894
	97	173		137	121		3	8	715
MID. ATLANTIC Upstate N.Y.	1,305 160	2,317	28	4,173	4,588	1	108	18	1,780
N.Y. City	562	237 1,183	15	486 2,480	652 2.573	1	12	6	1,283
N.J.	217	288		740	782	-	72 18	1 4	201
Pa.	366	609	13	487	581	-	6	7	261 236
E.N. CENTRAL	2,666	4,002	35	2,018	2,209	8	72	44	65
Ohio Ind.	1,075	1,101	8	321	299	1	7	27	4
III.	775	349 1,540	11	1,028	212	2	7	5	13
Mich.	278	535	14	430	1,163 447	3	45	10	19
Wis.	294	477		54	88	1	7	2	14 15
W.N. CENTRAL	1,105	1,549	26	539	486	38	1	38	213
Minn. Iowa	48 67	56	1	122	67	1		30	17
Mo.	926	1,299	8 7	57 232	57		-	1	84
N. Dak.	-	4	1	8	238	24	1	19	26
S. Dak. Nebr.	.1	2		25	14	2		13	12 39
Kans.	11 52	10 114	5	19	23	3		1	-
S. ATLANTIC				76	80	7		4	35
Del.	5,115 25	6,193	8	3,800	4,280	2	47	204	1,897
Md.	290	347		40 314	47 372	1	14	20	41
D.C. Va.	199	314		105	154		1	23	495
W. Va.	772	644 12	1	292	415		8	19	412
N.C.	1,566	1,799	1	75 484	71 535	*		2	73
S.C.	762	882		355	369			81 19	163 172
Ga. Fla.	774 718	1,029	1	653	715	1	2	55	352
		1,075	5	1,482	1,602	*	21	5	187
E.S. CENTRAL Ky.	3,725 208	3,902 325	6	1,336	1,539	2	3	44	212
Tenn.	967	1,116	2 3	306 401	349 486	2	1 2	9	24
Ala.	616	823	1	413	470		2	29	71 117
Miss.	1,934	1,638		216	234		-	4	***
W.S. CENTRAL	4,151	5,245	2	3,030	2,534	17	16	49	644
Ark. La.	452 1,599	531 2,439		264	182	16	*	9	25
Okin.	111	270	2	349 232	289 157	1	3	33	69
Tex.	1,989	2,005	-	2,185	1,906		10	7	42 508
MOUNTAIN	223	233	13	485	524	9	12	14	135
Mont.	4	1		9	13	3		4	22
Wyo.	2 2	8	3	11	12	*	-		3
Colo.	119	78	6	8 21	6 79	1	3	2 4	19
N. Mex.	19	24		65	59	i	1	2	15
Ariz. Utali	39	94	2	220	234	-	3	1	45
Nev.	30	11	2	51 100	30 91	2 2	2	:	13
PACIFIC	650	1,171	53		-		3	1	10
Wash.	32	55	3	5,103	4,802 255	5	111		268
Oreg.	21	39		90	-	2	5		12
Calif. Alaska	590	1,061	46	4,466	4,256	2	97		226
Hawaii	3	8	i	63 238	55 236	1			30
Guam	10	3	-	170			5		
P.R.	281	473		159	65 213		1		
V.I.	28	39	-		2				60
Amer. Samos C.N.M.I.	1 2	-		4	4		1	*	
out.m.	2	7		34	41		1		

TABLE III. Deaths in 121 U.S. cities,* week ending December 10, 1994 (49th Week)

		All	Cause	es, By	Age (Y	eers)		PGI'		-	III Cau	ses, By	All Causes, By Age (Years)					
Reporting Area	All	2	:65 4	5-64	25-44	1-24	<1	Tutal	Reporting Area	All Ages ≥65 45-64 25-6		25-44	1-24 <1		P&I [*] Total			
VEW ENGLAND	620	-	429	107	59	10	15	50	S. ATLANTIC	1,314	810	263	161	51	26	65		
loston, Mass.	138		85	33	14	2	4	13	Atlanta, Ga.	198	106	45	26	10	11	10		
Iridgeport, Conn.	27		21	4	2	*	*		Baltimore, Md.	137	79	25	25	5	1	13		
ambridge, Mass.	30		23	6	1	*	-	3	Charlotte, N.C.	130	75	29	18	5	3	1:		
uit River, Mass.	37		32		4		1	2	Jacksonville, Fla.	157 96	107 57	30 22	12	3	1			
lartford, Conn.	63		35	15	7	4	2	Z	Miami, Fla.	70	53	9	7	1	*	2		
owell, Mass.	20		21	2	3		-	1	Norfolk, Va. Richmond, Va.	75	49	17	6	3	-			
ynn, Mass. lew Bedford, Mass			15 15	2	1		-	il	Savannah, Ga.	45	29	9	5	1	1			
New Haven, Conn.	3/		22	6	3	2	1	2	St. Petersburg, Fla.	47	38	3	4	1	1			
rovidence, R.I.	63		41	11	7	2	1	3	Tampa, Fla.	165	110	35	12	5	3	1		
somerville, Menn.	-		4			-		- 1	Washington, D.C.	180	97	38	30	10	5	- 3		
pringfield, Mass.	73	1	48	12	9		4	12	Wilmington, Del.	14	10	1	2	100	*			
Naterbury, Conn.	21		21	5	1		1	4						-	8			
Norcester, Mass.	6	ı	48	11	6	*	1	8	E.S. CENTRAL	743	486	166	59	24	3	5		
	-		750	***	000	100	-00	400	Birmingham, Ale.	104	33	17	4	3	1			
MID. ATLANTIC	2,66		,756 44	486	306	66	62	155	Chattanooga, Tenn. Knoxville, Tenn.	88	55	24	8	1		1		
Albany, N.Y. Allentown, Pa.	8		17	6	6 2	-	1	1	Lexington, Ky.	78	39	31	6	2				
Buffalo, N.Y.	71		70	5	2	1		22	Memphis, Tenn.	173	116	36	12	8	1	1		
Camden, N.J.	3		23	3	2	2	2	3	Mobile, Ale.	62	41	12	7	2				
Elizabeth, N.J.	3		24		2	4	-	1	Montgomery, Ala.	30	23	3	2	1	1			
Erie, Pa.§	4		35	5	1	-	-	2	Nashville, Tenn.	159	105	33	15	4	2			
Jersey City, N.J.	3		15	6	11	4	1	*										
New York City, N.Y.			879	259	176	30	25	55	W.S. CENTRAL	1,530	947	304	164	66	46	11		
Newark, N.J.	9		40	22	27	4	2	9	Austin, Tex.	53	27	11	12	1	2			
Paterson, N.J.	1	6	11	3	2	*	-	*	Baton Rouge, La.	55	38	11	4	2	2			
Philadelphia, Pa.	39		249	80	38	10	19	22	Corpus Christi, Tex.	44	31	6 26	25	11	4			
Pittsburgh, Pa.§	8		58	12	6	2	4	8	Dallas, Tex.	186 56	120	4	25 A	1	3			
Reading, Pa.	1		7	4	3			3 7	El Paso, Tex. Ft. Worth, Tex.	124	80	21	15	6	2	1		
Rochester, N.Y.	13		94	28	9	2	5	7	Houston, Tex.	405	223	91	54	20	15	4		
Schenectady, N.Y.	3		23	5	2		-	2	Little Rock, Ark.	74	49	16	6	2	1			
Scranton, Pa.5	2		25	3	5		-	1	New Orleans, La.	161	90		19	10	4			
Syracuse, N.Y.	8		61	14		1	3	6 7	San Antonio, Tex.	221	146		10	9	10	2		
Trenton, N.J.	6	3	12	5	10	2	-	,	Shreveport, La.	35	16	13	4	1	1			
Utica, N.Y. Yonkers, N.Y.	2		25	1	1			1	Tulsa, Okla.	116	83	22	8	3	*			
							_		MOUNTAIN	980	668	155	79	37	21	6		
E.N. CENTRAL	2,23		1,429	391	196	153	67	123	Albuquerque, N.M.	108	72		10	3	1	0		
Akron, Ohio	6		48	10	3		3		Colo. Springs, Colo.		28	7	1	4	1			
Canton, Ohio	- 4		36	3	1	. 1	47	2	Denver, Colo.	135	88		17	9	4	- 1		
Chicago, III.	31		61 99	88	57 14	111	17	13 21	Las Vegas, Nev.	168	114		15	2	3			
Cincinnati, Ohio	14			26	7	2	5	5	Ogden, Utah	28	24		1	1				
Cleveland, Ohio	14		112	22	17	3 5	4	11	Phoenix, Ariz.	190	127		19	6	5	1		
Columbus, Ohio Dayton, Ohio	13		95	25	9	1	1		Pueblo, Colo.	24	20	3	1					
Detroit, Mich.	23		144	45	31	5	11		Salt Lake City, Utah	92	61		8	6	4			
Evansvilla, Ind.		1	38	9	3		1		Tucson, Ariz.	174	134	24	7	6	3			
Fort Wayne, Ind.		1	58	11	1	1		6	PACIFIC	1,969	1,264	376	211	52	32	16		
Gary, Ind.		5	12	9	2	1	1		Berkeley, Calif.	25	1,204		4	DW.	34	- 10		
Grand Rapids, Mic		2	52	13	5	1	1	5	Fresno, Calif.	71	47		9	2	5			
Indianapolis, Ind.	15		118	41	14	10	8		Glendale, Calif.	41	31		2	1	0			
Madison, Wis.		19	32	8	4	3	2	3	Honolulu, Hawaii	80			11		2			
Milwaukee, Wis.	18	13	145	25	10	2	1	8	Long Beach, Calif.	88			8	1	4			
Peoria, III.		17	32	4	1			2	Los Angeles, Calif.	618				28	5			
Rockford, III.		3	43	6	2	1	1	3	Pasadena, Calif.	46			4	1				
South Bend, Ind.		15	38	8	7		2	3	Portland, Oreg.	128			3	1	3			
Toledo, Ohio	11		85	18	5	5	4	5	Sacramento, Calif.	U			ŭ	Ú	Ű			
Youngstown, Ohio	1	3	58	11	3	1		4	Sen Diego, Calif.	183			21	6	3			
W.N. CENTRAL	81	12	613	131	63	30	15	32	San Francisco, Calif			36		2	1			
		51	32	11		2	10	1	San Jose, Calif.	154	110	31	8	3	2	1		
Des Moines, lowa		24	18	4		1		. 1	Santa Cruz, Calif.	41		6	5	- 4	-			
Duluth, Minn.		29	15	5		4			Seattle, Wash.	153	110	31	6	4	2			
Kansas City, Kans. Kansas City, Mo.	9	16	75	18		6	1	7	Spokane, Wash.	57	4	1 11	1	1	3			
Lincoln, Nebr.		36	28	7		0		1	Tacoma, Wash.	129	91	5 20	9	2	2			
Minneapolie Mine			163	25		5	3											
Minneapolis, Minn	. 2	11	72	16		2	6		TOTAL	12,890	B,402	2,359	1,298	489	292	8		
Omaha, Nebr. St. Louis, Mo.		54	116	20		6		-										
St. Paul, Minn.		81	43	13		1	1											
	-	27.5					- 3											

[&]quot;Mortality data in this table are voluntarily reported from 121 cities in the United States, most of which have populations of 100,000 or more. A death is reported by the place of its occurrence and by the week that the death certificate was filed. Fetal deaths are not included.

Preumonia and influenza.

Preumonia and innuenza.

*Because of changes in reporting methods in these 3 Pennsylvania cities, these numbers are partial counts for the current week. Complete counts will be available in 4 to 6 weeks.

*Total includes unknown ages.
U: Unavailable.

Encephalitis - Continued

TABLE 1. Serologic results for cat scratch disease encephalitis patients, by age, date of onset, and date of serum specimen — Broward and Palm Beach counties, Florida, 1994

Age (yrs)	Date of onset	Date of serum specimen	Antibody tite
6	Aug 12	Aug 12	1:2048
11	Aug 13	Aug 13	1:512
5	Aug 14	Aug 14	1:8192
9	Sep 5	Sep 5	1:>8192
3	Sep 27	Sep 27	1:2048

Editorial Note: CSD is caused by infection with *Bartonella* (formerly *Rochalimaea*) henselae, an organism that has been associated with bacillary angiomatosis in immunocompromised persons. CSD is associated with exposure to cats infected with *B. henselae*. An estimated 22,000 cases of CSD occur annually in the United States (1). CSD affects persons of all age groups and both sexes and generally is characterized by a self-limiting, regional lymphadenopathy. Uncommon manifestations of *B. henselae* infection include Parinaud oculoglandular syndrome, relapsing bacteremia, and endocarditis and bacillary peliosis (2). Affected lymph nodes usually are proximal to the site of a cat scratch or bite, frequently are tender, and may suppurate. Although antimicrobial agents such as trimethoprim-sulfamethoxazole, rifampin, amoxycillin, and tetracycline exhibit in vitro antimicrobial activity against *B. henselae*, antimicrobial therapy has not been consistently beneficial in reducing the duration or severity of CSD (3). Treatment of CSD is generally supportive, although excision of the affected lymph node(s) and the use of antimicrobials may be indicated for treatment of severe swelling, pain, or suppuration.

B. henselae infection in cats is asymptomatic. Cats can be asymptomatically bacteremic for several months and develop detectable antibodies concurrently with bacteremia (4). The seroprevalence of antibodies to B. henselae in cats is 14%—44% (5). Although B. henselae has been detected in fleas, the role of these and other ectoparasites in the transmission of B. henselae is unclear (2). Treatment with tetracycline has reduced bacteremia in cats; however, the effectiveness of treatment on preventing reinfection or recrudescence is unknown.

Encephalitis is a rare complication of CSD, occurring in 1%–7% of cases (3,5). Encephalitis typically develops 2–6 weeks after classic CSD—a pattern illustrated by this report. Clusters of CSD-associated encephalitis are rare, although two cases occurred in Connecticut during a 2-month period (1). Possible explanations for the cluster of CSD encephalitis cases include a background epidemic of classic CSD; however, because initial epidemiologic surveys have found no evidence of this or the presence of a more virulent form of *B. henselae*, further laboratory and epidemiologic studies are being conducted.

Recommendations for the prevention of CSD are directed toward the need to minimize contact between infected cats and humans. Cat owners should be encouraged to ensure that their pets receive routine veterinary health care that includes periodic physical examinations to prevent or detect ectoparasite infestations and to maintain current vaccinations against other zoonotic diseases (i.e., rabies). The potential for the transmission of *B. henselae* also may be reduced by keeping kittens and other pets

Encephalitis - Continued

indoors and by not playing roughly with them. Finally, the public should be educated to avoid contact with stray animals, to wash and disinfect bite and scratch wounds, and to seek appropriate medical care for severe injuries.

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Current Trends

Mortality Patterns — United States, 1992

In 1992, a total of 2,175,613 deaths were registered in the United States—6095 more than in 1991 and the most ever recorded in one year (1). Despite this increase, the overall age-adjusted death rate* (504.5 per 100,000 population) was the lowest ever recorded. In comparison, provisional data indicate that the overall rate increased in 1993 (2). This report summarizes an analysis of final mortality data for 1992 (1) and compares patterns with 1991.

This analysis used information from death certificates filed in state vital statistics offices as required by state law and compiled by CDC's National Center for Health Statistics into a national database. The causes of death are recorded on the death certificate by the attending physician, medical examiner, or coroner in a manner specified by the World Health Organization. In this report, cause-of-death statistics were based on the underlying cause of death[†]. Data are presented only for blacks and whites because of inconsistent reporting of other races on death certificates.

For 12 of the 15 leading causes of death, the death rate decreased in 1992 from 1991 (Table 1). The age-adjusted death rate for heart disease—the leading cause of mortality in the United States—declined by 2.6%. The rate for atherosclerosis decreased 7.7%, the largest decline among the 15 leading causes of death. Death rates from cancer decreased 1.0%, and from stroke decreased 2.2%. In contrast, rates from human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection and diabetes mellitus increased 11.5% and 0.8%, respectively. The death rate from HIV infection in 1992 was the highest annual rate ever recorded; in 1992, HIV infection was the eighth leading cause of death, while in 1991, it was the ninth leading cause (1).

^{*}Age-adjusted to the 1940 U.S. population. Age-adjusted death rates indicate changes in the risk for death more effectively than crude death rates and are better indicators for comparisons of mortality by race or sex.

Defined by the International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision, as "(a) the disease or injury which initiated the train of morbid events leading directly to death, or (b) the circumstances of the accident or violence which produced the fatal injury."

Mortality Patterns - Continued

Compared with 1991, age-adjusted death rates in 1992 declined for whites⁵ (from 486.8 to 477.5, respectively) and for blacks (from 780.7 to 767.5, respectively). For most of the leading causes, age-adjusted death rates were higher for blacks than for whites. The differences in rates were greatest for homicide and HIV infection, for which rates for blacks were 6.5 times and 3.7 times those for whites, respectively (Table 2). Death rates were lower for blacks for two of the 15 leading causes of death—chronic obstructive pulmonary diseases and allied conditions and suicide.

During 1992, age-adjusted death rates for males were higher than those for females (Table 2). Compared with 1991, age-adjusted death rates in 1992 declined both for males (from 669.9 to 656.0, respectively) and females (from 386.5 to 380.3, respectively). The sex-specific difference was greatest for HIV infection: the rate for males was 7.0 times that for females. Rates for suicide and homicide were 4.3 and 4.0 times, respectively, higher for males, and the rate for unintentional injuries was 2.6 times

TABLE 1. Age-adjusted death rates* for 1992 and percentage changes in age-adjusted death rates from the 15 leading causes of death from 1991 to 1992 and 1979 to 1992 — United States, 1992

			% Change			
Rank [†]	Cause of death (ICD-9 [§] code)	1992 Age-adjusted death rate	1991 to 1992	1979 to 1992		
1	Diseases of heart (390-398, 402, 404-429)	144.3	-2.6	-27.7		
2	Malignant neoplasms, including neoplasms of lymphatic and hematopoietic tissues	122.1	10			
	(140–208)	133.1	-1.0	1.8		
3	Cerebrovascular diseases (430-438)	26.2	-2.2	-37.0		
4	Chronic obstructive pulmonary diseases	40.0		00.0		
	and allied conditions (490–496)	19.9	-1.0	36.3		
5	Accidents and adverse effects (E800-E949)	29.4	-5.2	-31.5		
	Motor-vehicle accidents (E810–E825) All other accidents and adverse effects	15.8	-7.1	-31.9		
	(E800-E807, E826-E949)	13.7	-1.4	-30.1		
6	Pneumonia and influenza (480-487)	12.7	-5.2	13.4		
7	Diabetes mellitus (250)	11.9	0.8	21.4		
8	Human immunodeficiency virus infection					
	(042-044)**	12.6	11.5			
9	Suicide (E950-E959)	11.1	-2.6	-5.1		
10	Homicide and legal intervention (E960-E978)	10.5	-3.7	2.9		
11	Chronic liver disease and cirrhosis (571)	8.0	-3.6	-33.3		
12	Nephritis, nephrotic syndrome, and nephrosis					
	(580-589)	4.3	0	0		
13	Septicemia (038)	4.0	-2.4	73.9		
14	Atherosclerosis (440)	2.4	-7.7	-57.9		
15	Certain conditions originating in the perinatal period ^{††} (760–779)	_	-5.2	-42.0		
	All causes	504.5	-1.8	-12.0		

^{*}Per 100,000 population, age adjusted to the 1940 U.S. population.

⁵Hispanics and non-Hispanics are included in both racial groups.

[†]Based on number of deaths.

International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision.

When a death occurs under "accidental" circumstances, the preferred term within the public health community is "unintentional injury."

^{**}These codes are from addenda to the ICD-9 (3).

^{††}Based on infant mortality rates.

Mortality Patterns - Continued

higher for males. The sex-specific difference was lowest for diabetes mellitus (rate ratio=1.1).

In 1992, a total of 318 women were reported to have died from causes associated with pregnancy and childbirth; however, this total consisted of only deaths assigned to complications of pregnancy, childbirth, and the puerperium. The maternal mortality rate was 7.8 deaths per 100,000 live-born infants. The maternal mortality rate for blacks was 4.2 times greater than that for whites.

In 1992, overall life expectancy (LE) at birth was 75.8 years (Figure 1). Despite increases in death rates from HIV infection and diabetes mellitus, overall LE increased by 0.3 years compared with 1991, primarily reflecting decreases in mortality from heart disease among older persons and decreases in unintentional injuries for persons in most age groups 15–64 years. LE at birth remained highest among white females (79.8 years), followed by black females (73.9 years), white males (73.2 years), and black males (65.0 years)—although LE increased for all four racial-sex groups in 1992 over 1991. The race-specific difference in LE between blacks and whites decreased slightly from 1991 (7.0 years) to 1992 (6.9 years).

TABLE 2. Rate ratio of age-adjusted death rates* from the 15 leading causes of death, by sex and race of decedent — United States, 1992

Rank†	Cause of death (ICD-9 ⁶ code)	Male:female	Black:white1
1	Diseases of heart (390-398, 402, 404-429)	1.9	1.5
2	Malignant neoplasms, including neoplasms of lymphatic and hematopoietic tissues		
_	(140–208)	1.5	1.4
3	Cerebrovascular diseases (430–438)	1.2	1.9
4	Chronic obstructive pulmonary diseases		
	and allied conditions (490-496)	1.7	0.8
5	Accidents** and adverse effects (E800-E949)	2.6	1.3
	Motor-vehicle accidents (E810–E825)	2.3	1.0
	All other accidents and adverse effects (E800–E807, E826–E949)	3.0	1.6
6	Pneumonia and influenza (480-487)	1.7	1.4
6 7 8	Diabetes mellitus (250)	1.1	2.4
8	Human immunodeficiency virus infection	***	
	(042-044)††	7.0	3.7
9	Suicide (E950-E959)	4.3	0.6
10	Homicide and legal intervention (E960-E978)	4.0	6.5
11	Chronic liver disease and cirrhosis (571)	2.4	1.5
12	Nephritis, nephrotic syndrome, and nephrosis		,,
	(580-589)	1.5	2.8
13	Septicemia (038)	1.3	2.7
14	Atherosclerosis (440)	1.3	1.1
15	Certain conditions originating in the perinatal		Olto 3 - O
10	period ^{§§} (760–779)	1.2	3.2
	All causes	1.7	1.6

^{*}Per 100,000 population, age-adjusted to the 1940 U.S. population.

[†]Based on number of deaths.

[§]International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision.

[¶]Hispanics and non-Hispanics are included in both racial groups. Data are presented only for blacks and whites because of inconsistent reporting of other races on death certificates.

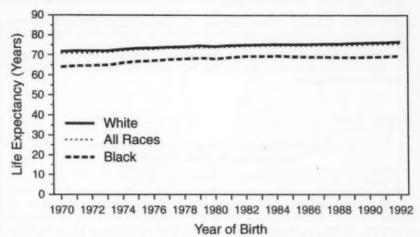
^{**}When a death occurs under "accidental" circumstances, the preferred term within the public health community is "unintentional injury."

^{††}These codes are from addenda to the ICD-9 (3).

⁵⁵ Based on infant mortality rates.

Mortality Patterns - Continued

FIGURE 1. Life expectancy at birth, by year of birth and race* — United States, 1970–1992



*Hispanics and non-Hispancs are included in both racial groups. Race differences are given only for blacks and whites because of inconsistent reporting of other races on death certificates.

Reported by: Mortality Statistics Br, Div of Vital Statistics, National Center for Health Statistics, CDC.

Editorial Note: The findings in this report indicate that death rates have declined for most leading causes, including chronic diseases (e.g., heart disease and stroke) and unintentional injuries; however, death rates associated with HIV infection have increased. Race-specific differences in death rates may reflect variations in factors such as socioeconomic status, access to medical care, and the prevalence of specific risks. LE summarizes death rates by age into a single measure used as an indicator of the nation's health. Each of these approaches can be used to monitor health status and progress toward national health objectives and to identify groups at increased risk for specific diseases and injuries.

Overall, LE has increased every year since 1980. Improvements in LE reflect decreases in the occurrence of many of the leading causes of death, particularly heart disease; however, larger increases in overall LE may have been offset by mortality patterns for HIV infection.

Some disease categories (e.g., infections) may not be adequately represented by one classification system, such as the *International Classification of Diseases*, because of their dispersion throughout the coding system. Therefore, alternative analyses or data sources may provide better measures of mortality associated with these diseases.

Mortality Patterns — Continued

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Current Trends

Update: Respiratory Syncytial Virus Activity — United States, 1994–95 Season

Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV), a common cause of winter outbreaks of acute respiratory disease, causes an estimated 90,000 hospitalizations and 4500 deaths each year from lower respiratory tract disease in both infants and young children in the United States (1). Outbreaks occur annually throughout the United States, and community activity usually peaks within 1 month of the national peak (2). RSV activity in the United States is monitored by the National Respiratory and Enteric Virus Surveillance System (NREVSS), a voluntary, laboratory-based system. This report presents provisional surveillance results from the NREVSS for RSV during July 2–December 9, 1994, and summarizes trends in RSV from July 1, 1990, through July 1, 1994.

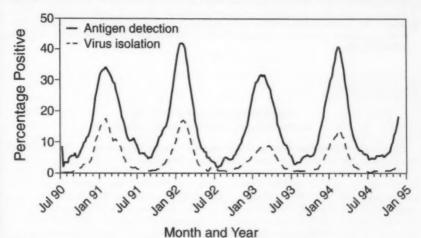
Since July 1, 1990, a total of 105 hospital-based and public health laboratories in 47 states have participated in the NREVSS and have reported weekly to CDC the number of specimens tested for RSV by the antigen detection and virus isolation methods and the number of positive results. Widespread RSV activity is defined by the NREVSS as the first of 2 consecutive weeks when at least half of participating laboratories report any RSV detections. This definition generally indicates a mean percentage of specimens positive by antigen detection in excess of 10%. During the previous four seasons, from July 1, 1990, through July 1, 1994, onset of widespread RSV activity began in November and continued an average of 24 weeks until April or mid-May (Figure 1). The peak in activity occurred each year from mid-January through mid-February. For the current reporting period (July 2–December 9, 1994), 85 laboratories in 43 states reported results of testing for RSV. Since November 12, more than half of the participating laboratories reported detections of RSV on a weekly basis, indicating the onset of RSV activity for the 1994–95 season.

Reported by: National Respiratory and Enteric Virus Surveillance System laboratories. Respiratory and Enteric Viruses Br, Div of Viral and Rickettsial Diseases, National Center for Infectious Diseases, CDC.

Editorial Note: During the RSV season, health-care providers should consider RSV as a cause of acute respiratory disease in both children and adults. Most severe manifestations of infection with RSV (e.g., pneumonia and bronchiolitis) occur in infants aged 2–6 months; however, children of any age with underlying cardiac or pulmonary disease or who are immunocompromised are at risk for serious complications from this

Respiratory Syncytial Virus - Continued

FIGURE 1. Percentage* of specimens positive for respiratory syncytial virus, by method of confirmation and week — United States, July 1, 1990-December 9, 1994



*Laboratory group mean, smoothed using 5-week moving average.

infection. Because natural infection with RSV provides limited protective immunity, RSV may cause repeated symptomatic infections throughout life. In adults, RSV usually causes upper respiratory tract manifestations but may cause lower respiratory tract disease—especially in the elderly and in immunocompromised persons. Outbreaks among immunocompromised persons can result in high death rates.

RSV is a common, but preventable, cause of nosocomially acquired infection; the risk for nosocomial transmission is increased during community outbreaks. Sources for nosocomially acquired infection include infected patients, staff, visitors, or contaminated fomites. Nosocomial outbreaks or transmission of RSV can be controlled with strict attention to contact-isolation procedures (3). In addition, chemotherapy with ribavirin is indicated for some patients (e.g., those at high risk for severe complications or those who are seriously ill with this infection) (4). Prophylaxis with intravenous RSV immunoglobulin for high-risk patients is being evaluated (5). Vaccines for RSV are being developed, and some are being evaluated in clinical trials; however, none have been proven safe and efficacious (6).

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Notice to Readers

Publication of Draft Guideline for Isolation Precautions in Hospitals

The Hospital Infection Control Practices Advisory Committee and CDC published the *Draft Guideline for Isolation Precautions in Hospitals*, in the November 7, 1994, *Federal Register** for public comment. Copies of the document are available for \$7.95 (catalog number 094600) from the American Hospital Association, Order Processing Desk, P.O. Box 92683, Chicago, IL 60675-2683; telephone (800) 242-2626; or for \$8.00 (stock number 069-001-00079-3) from the U.S. Government Printing Office, Order and Information Desk, Washington, DC 20402-9329, telephone (202) 512-1800. In addition, the *Federal Register* can be viewed and photocopied at most libraries designated as U.S. Government Depository Libraries and at some public and academic libraries. Comments must be received in writing by January 6, 1995, at CDC, Attention: Isolation Guideline, Mailstop A-07, 1600 Clifton Road, NE, Atlanta, GA 30333.

Notice to Readers

Combined Issues of MMWR

A December 30, 1994, issue of *MMWR* will not be published. Following that, the next issue will be Volume 43, Numbers 51 and 52, dated January 6, 1995, and will include the figure and tables on notifiable diseases and deaths for the weeks ending December 24 and December 31, 1994.

Notice to Readers

Availability of Summary of Sanitation Inspections of International Cruise Ships

Every cruise ship coming into a U.S. port that has an international itinerary and carries 13 or more passengers is inspected semiannually by CDC. A ship's inspection score is published every 2 weeks in the Summary of Sanitation Inspections of International Cruise Ships (i.e., the "Green Sheet"). A ship's level of sanitation is acceptable if its score is 86% or higher.

^{*59} FR 55552-70.

Notice to Readers — Continued

The Green Sheet is available through Internet, ftp.cdc.gov//pub/ship_inspections/shipscore.txt; the CDC Fax Information Service, telephone (404) 332-4565 (request document number 510051); or CDC's National Center for Environmental Health, Vessel Sanitation Program, Room 107, 1015 North America Way, Miami, FL 33132; telephone (305) 536-4307; fax (305) 536-4528.

Erratum: Vol. 42, No. 53

The Summary of Notifiable Diseases, United States, 1993 (published October 21, 1994), contains errors on pages 24, 60, and 67. The legend "Outbreak due to Fermented Fish/Sea Products, AL" in the foodborne botulism graph (page 24) should read "Outbreak due to Fermented Fish/Sea Products, AK". The vertical legend in the tuberculosis graph by year (page 60) should read "Reported Cases," not "Reported Cases per 100,000 Population." In Table 1 of the Historical Summary Tables (page 67), the AIDS total for 1993 should be 103,691 and footnoted as follows: "Total reported through December 31, 1993. Total includes 158 cases with unknown state of residence."

Erratum: Vol. 43, No. 43

In the article "National Notifiable Diseases Reporting—United States, 1994," the year of publication listed in the reference should have been MMWR 1993 instead of MMWR 1994.

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